

**Cocking to fire***Signal beats Artillery in Eastern League flag football*

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Fort Riley Post

Seeing sights of yesteryear*Re-enactors provide historical look of life*

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Friday, October 6, 2006

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 49, No. 40

Around the Army**Grafenwoehr:**

The European Stars and Stripes reported Oct. 3 that the demand for housing from incoming Soldiers and civilians has forced Army officials to expand their search area.

Last month, the garrison's housing office ditched a plan to house new arrivals within a 30-minute drive of post and is now offering troops homes as far as 45 minutes away.

The arrival of thousands of troops and families from the 2nd Cavalry (Stryker) Regiment has put increased pressure on local housing.

Housing officials say the crunch is temporary and Soldiers coming to Grafenwoehr can expect to be offered state-of-the-art housing with U.S. appliances, 110-watt voltage and a single-car garage in less than the average USAREUR wait time of 13 days.

For more on this story and other U.S. military news in the European and Pacific theaters, visit estripes.com on the Web.

Fort Lewis:

The Northwest Guardian reported Sept. 28 that the Fort Lewis Memorial Park has a new addition standing to the left of the statue of Capt. Meriwether Lewis — a bronze statue of Sgt. John Ordway, the ranking noncommissioned officer on the Corps of Discovery.

About 200 dignitaries and other visitors, including Ordway descendants from Seattle, attended the official dedication ceremony Sept. 23, as the official party unveiled five memorial plaques.

Command Sgt. Maj. Tommy A. Williams, 1 Corps command sergeant major, talked about the extraordinary responsibility Ordway had at age 29 and the exceptional job he did in maintaining good order, accountability and discipline.

Ordway's journal was the only continuous, daily record of the expedition from start to finish by someone other than the two leading officers.

For more on this story and other Fort Lewis, Wash., news, visit www.nwguardian.com/news/ on the Web.

Stay in Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley. Tune in to Fort Riley cable channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. or watch the show at 5 a.m. every Saturday and at 11 a.m. most Saturdays on WIBC TV, Channel 13.

This week's show, which runs on the post's cable channel 2 Oct. 9-13, includes:

- An overview of Apple Day and Open House activities
- Kids running the obstacle course at Open House
- Static equipment displays set up at Open House
- People on the Open House firing range

- A member of the TV Branch staff making and the Apple Pie Queen making a pie
- An interview with Maj. Gen. Carter Ham, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley commanding general

- The Global War on Terrorism ceremony honoring Fort Riley's fallen Soldiers, and
- Man on the Street interviews at the Open House



Post/Heronemus

Gen. Richard Cody, Army vice chief of staff, talks with members of a military transition team Oct. 3 after their after action review of training they had just conducted at Fort Riley.

Cody views training

Army vice chief of staff gauges state of military transition team preparation

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Military transition teams are succeeding in Iraq. Gen. Richard Cody, vice chief of staff for the Army, told several members of the Kansas news media after viewing teams training at Fort Riley Oct. 3.

"I think the effectiveness we've seen right now (overseas) is the amount of Iraqi units that

are able to displace U.S. troops in different provinces. I think that allows the movement of our brigade combat teams into Baghdad where the center of gravity is.

"We've been able to turn over territory and operations areas to the Iraqi army based upon the individual training that we've been giving them and now the collective training and now the impact of the training teams going out with them," he said.

"It's our No. 1 priority," Cody

said about preparing transition teams to embed with Iraqi and Afghan army and security units to help those units develop and to assume responsibility for the security of their countries.

Cody spent the day at Fort Riley receiving briefings on the new 1st Infantry Division mission and viewing actual training "to gauge where we are in training military transition teams," he said.

See Gen. Cody, Page 3

It's a blast!

'Kodiaks' learn how to blow up

By Anna Morelock
Staff writer

If a person thinks they can hide behind a locked door from Soldiers of the 70th Engineer Battalion, they will be sadly mistaken.

Give one of the "Kodiak" Soldiers a couple of full IV bags, some duct tape and detonator cord and without breaking a sweat he'll whip together a MacGyver-like gadget that no deadbolt can withstand.

Besides blowing doors to shards with water impulse charges, the "Kodiak" Soldiers of Company A were in the field Sept. 19 as part of a two-week field problem to prepare for their upcoming deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

While prepping the charges, Sgt. Jonathan Wolford asked the Soldiers in his squad if they'd seen movies with police breaking down doors with battering rams.

Of course they had.

Well, he explained about the IV bags strapped tightly together with a knot of "det" cord sandwiched between them, "this is the lazy man's freakin' battering ram. All I do is go tape this to a door, step back, pull the freakin' thing. Blam. Door's open. I didn't break a sweat and everybody on the inside is like 'wow, what happened?'"

Although the same ends can often be accomplished with a swift kick, using a water impulse charge adds an element of shock and is more fun, admitted a group of Soldiers strapping tape around their IV bags.

"It's a non-lethal means of breaching a door," Spc. David Henke explained. "So, if you have hostages or somebody inside you want to get out, it's a low-impulse charge strong enough to take out a door and it's low enough so it's not going to be lethal."

Adding the shock factor can be benefi-

See Engineers, Page 10



Post/Morelock

Soldiers from Alpha Company, 70th Eng. Bn. measure out lengths of detonator cord as they prepare flex linear charges in the field Sept. 19. The Soldiers were in the field for two weeks as part of their preparation to deploy next year in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Post fire stations earn IMA award

Firefighters place second at Army level

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Fort Riley firefighters accepted a plaque Oct. 2 recognizing the department as the best small operation in the Northwest Region of the Installation Management Agency for 2005.

Fire Chief Mike Cook told members of the A shift assembled at the post's main fire station that Fort Riley also had been runner-up in the Army-wide competition, losing out to Fort Gordon, Ga., which went on to be named the best small department in Department of Defense.

Judging included an analysis of each department's customer service; the number of department level awards, accreditations, certifications and other recognition received during the year; innovations that made the department more efficient and effective in providing firefighting service to the post; and quality of life efforts, such as fire prevention programs and educational programs.

Small fire department competition is limited to posts with three engine companies, so this will be the last year Fort Riley can compete in the small department category, Cook said.

The department is growing rapidly because of the development taking place on post. Just after the award winner was determined, Fort Riley moved into the large category by opening up the \$750,000 Station No. 4 at Huebn-

See Award, Page 4

President signs defense appropriations bill

Military gets \$507B, more active duty, Army National Guard positions

Appropriations act funds war on terror, Soldier support

By Sgt. Sara Wood
AFPS

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) — President Bush signed into law H.R. 5631, the "Depart-

ment of Defense Appropriations Act, 2007," which appropriates the funds needed to fight the war on terror, advance other U.S. interests abroad and support the armed forces Sept. 30.

The bill includes an additional \$70 billion in emergency funds to pay for the wars in Iraq and

Afghanistan through early next year, including nearly \$24 billion for the Army and Marine Corps to repair and replace worn-out equipment. The new funding brings to \$507 billion the total amount authorized by Congress for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and other anti-terror-

ism efforts.

The bill provides \$378 billion for core Pentagon programs, about a 5 percent increase, though slightly less than Bush sought.

Some highlights of the act include:

- Increasing the 2007 active-duty end strength by 30,000 to

512,400 and the Army National Guard end strength by more than 17,000 to 350,000;

- Increasing Servicemembers Group Life Insurance benefits for Soldiers in combat zones from \$150,000 to \$400,000,

See Funding bill, Page 2





Ceremony honors Fort Riley's fallen Soldiers

Commanding general recalls attack on United States, vows Army 'will never forget'



A group of Cub Scouts render honors during the ceremony Sept. 30 at the Global War on Terror monument honoring all Fort Riley Soldiers who have died in that war.

Post/Morelock

See open house stories and photos in Community Life section.

The Young Dead Soldiers

This poem by Archibald MacLeish is inscribed on the Global War on Terrorism monument at Fort Riley:

*The young dead Soldiers do not speak.
Nevertheless, they are heard in the still houses: who has not heard them?
They have a silence that speaks for them at night and when the clock counts.
They say: We are young. We have died. Remember us.
They say: We have done what we could but until it is finished it is not done.
They say: We have given our lives but until it is finished no one can know what our lives gave.
They say: Our deaths are not ours; they are yours; they will mean what you make of them.
They say: Whether our lives and our deaths were for peace and a new hope or for nothing we cannot say; it is you who must say this.
They say: We leave our deaths. Give them their meaning
We were young, they say, we have died. Remember us.*

By Anna Morelock
Staff writer

On one edge of Cavalry Parade Field, a granite pentagon-shaped base supports two black marble towers engraved with 78 names.

Soldiers and community members gathered around the monument Sept. 30 to pay tribute to those 78 Soldiers killed while deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

"As we stand by this monument today, it reminds us that our freedom is not free and that there are those who would take it from us," said Chap. (Col.) Thomas Day, installation chaplain, during the invocation.

The monument, which was dedicated at Fort Riley in 2004, symbolizes the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, "that bleak day" which fully committed the United States to fight and win against those who would destroy us, said Garrison Commander Col. Thomas "Ty" Smith.

Maj. Gen. Carter Ham, commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, took those gathered back to that September day as he took the podium.

"Do you remember?" he asked those gathered. "It was a Tuesday morning. Just a plain old Tuesday morning, and that Tuesday morning is what brought us here today."

The Soldiers from Fort Riley and elsewhere who have died lost their lives so that Americans can enjoy the fruits of liberty and all that is right with America, Ham said.

Besides coming together to honor those Soldiers, attendees stood and applauded the family

members in attendance.

"You truly do honor us with your presence," Ham said. "It's an opportunity for us to say thank you in an effort to repay a debt that we can never really repay. But it's a way to honor your sons, your husbands who have sacrificed so much for all of us."

After a moment of silence, the names of the 78 Soldiers were

read and a wreath of flowers was placed at the foot of the monument.

"We have a saying in the Army that we never leave a fallen comrade," Ham said. "We won't, and we will never forget."

Anna Morelock can be contacted at anna.morelock@riley.army.mil or 239-3032.

Funding bill

continued from page 1

House Conference Report

U.S. Representative Jim Ryan (R-Kan.) reported Sept. 29 that the House conference report for H.R. 5122 – the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 – contained \$91 million for the new 1st Infantry Division headquarters building, \$32 million for a new barracks complex, \$5.2 million for a new child development center and \$10.2 million for a vehicle inspection and cargo processing facility.

It included a 2.2 percent pay raise for all members of the armed forces.

ment or humanitarian assistance operations requires action of that kind sooner, the executive branch will act consistent with the president's constitutional authority, he said.

The executive branch shall construe section 8093 of the act, relating to integration of foreign intelligence information, in a manner consistent with the president's constitutional authority, Bush said.

Also, the executive branch shall construe sections 8095 and 8101 of the act, which purport to prohibit the president from altering command and control relationships within the armed forces, as advisory, as any other construction would be inconsistent with the president's constitutional authority, he said.

Army Field Band seeks audio engineer

Army News Service

FORT MEADE, Md. – The U.S. Army Field Band is looking for an audio engineer.

The U.S. Army Field Band is the Army's premier touring musical representative and travels thousands of miles each year to present a variety of music to audiences throughout the nation and abroad.

As members of the band, audio engineers travel about 100 days each year with one of four per-

forming components: the Concert Band, Soldiers' Chorus, Jazz Ambassadors or Volunteers show band.

The audio section provides recording engineers for assigned component projects and special television events. Day-to-day duties include set-up, tear-down and maintenance of sound systems and driving, as needed.

Applicants should possess at least five years' experience in professional live-sound reinforcement, proficiency in multi-track

recording in various musical genres, and familiarity with large-format mixing consoles, pro-level digital audio equipment and basic video operation.

Military personnel must be eligible for a permanent change of station and must submit a recommendation letter for reassignment from their unit commander, if offered the position.

Non-military applicants must

be willing to enlist in the Army for a minimum of three years.

Those interested should submit a current resume and a copy of a multi-track project on DAT, CD or MD by Dec. 7. Applicants selected from screenings of recordings will be invited for a personal interview.

For information on this or other vacancies within the Field Band, visit www.armyfieldband.com.

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Post, Army news briefly

Post recycling awards earned

Small unit Recycle Troop Incentive Program winners for the 4th quarter of fiscal year 2006 were:

- **1001st Military Police Battalion**, 1st place, \$750
- **U.S. Army Garrison**, 2nd place, \$500
- **15th Finance**, 3rd place, \$250

Medium unit winners were:

- **82nd Medical Company**, 1st place, \$1,000
- **Medical Department Activity**, 2nd place, \$750
- **Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Infantry Division**, 3rd place, \$500

Large unit winners were:

- **1st Battalion, 16th Infantry**, 1st place, \$1,250
- **1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery**, 2nd place, \$1,000
- **541st Combat Support Sustainment Battalion**, 3rd place, \$750

Reserve unit winner was 1st MOB Detachment, \$750

Work may delay Huebner traffic

Construction work on a modern roundabout at the intersection of Williston Point Road and Huebner Road has started. Commuters should expect construction delays while the intersection is completely replaced.

Temporary by-passes will be constructed to allow traffic through the intersection during construction.

Construction work is scheduled to be completed by Dec. 31.

Event highlights ethnic heritage

The 1st Infantry Division Equal Opportunity Office will sponsor Fort Riley's celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Oct. 11 at Riley's Conference Center.

The program is free and open to all Soldiers, their families, civilian employees and the public.

Re-up counselor vies for top spot in FORSCOM

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Aug. 24: Fort Riley career counselor of the year.

Sept. 7: III Corps career counselor of the year.

Oct. 28: Forces Command career counselor of the year?

Fort Riley's Staff Sgt. Joy Nitkiewicz of the 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, already holds the first two titles. She's preparing to face a board that will determine the top career counselor in FORSCOM, so she's hitting the books, trying to cram as much information about re-enlistment options as possible into her mind before then.

Career counselor boards differ from non-commissioned officer or Soldier boards, Nitkiewicz said. The other boards drill Soldiers about general military knowledge. Career counselor boards concentrate on determining how much the Soldier knows about keeping fellow Soldiers in the Army.

Career counselor boards ask questions that are more situational than cut and dried military knowledge, such as the maximum effective range of a weapon or established military procedures and policies, Nitkiewicz explained. That makes it harder to study for, especially for situations not dealt with regularly.

For Nitkiewicz, those situations are ones where active duty Soldiers want to re-enlist for duty in the Army Reserve or National Guard, she said.

Nitkiewicz works with Soldiers in the 101st Forward Support Battalion and 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, but when one of the Soldiers in those units is thinking about going into one of the reserve components, she refers them to one of the reserve component career counselors with the 1st Bde.

Because she doesn't deal with reserve component situations on a day-to-day basis, she's had to hit

the books "every night" to learn everything she can about those options. Knowledge of the other active duty options come naturally because Nitkiewicz must work with them almost daily.

Nitkiewicz became a career counselor April 12, 2005, because her military occupational specialty — administrative noncommissioned officer — was being downsized. "I picked career counseling because it gives me interaction with Soldiers and lets me assist them with their careers," she explained.

Not all the Soldiers who talk with Nitkiewicz have re-enlistment questions, she said. Some want to know how to enroll in the Army's married couples program or how much time they have to have before being eligible for promotion to sergeant, she said. Her administrative background helps her point them in the right direction.

When they do want to re-enlist, it's not always about big bonuses, Nitkiewicz said. "A lot of Soldiers love their job and what they're doing," she said. "For some, the bonus is just something extra. I've had a lot of Soldiers re-enlist who weren't eligible for a bonus."

Education opportunities also play a big role in convincing a Soldier to re-enlist, she said, but, for a lot of re-enlistees, the Army means job stability — a paycheck every month — and a means of fulfilling their personal patriotism, Nitkiewicz said.

When she gets a Soldier the option he or she wants, Nitkiewicz said she is as happy on their re-enlistment day as the Soldier is, but not as happy as she was Oct. 6. That's the day she re-enlisted "indef," so she will be in the Army until retirement.

Mike Heronemus can be contacted at mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil.



Staff Sgt. Joy Nitkiewicz



Post/Heronemus

Gen. Richard Cody, Army vice chief of staff, talks with members of the Kansas news media after viewing military transition team training near the Multi-Purpose Range Complex at Fort Riley Oct. 3

Gen. Cody

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While downrange, Cody observed two transition teams training to avoid improvised explosive devices and reacting to a convoy ambush and sniper attack.

"The replication out here in the training area looks just like the things they're going to see in Iraq," Cody said about the training he saw and the 60-day schedule of training provided for the teams.

"Each one of the training exercises is more complex each day. We keep giving them more and more complicated situations so that when they get downrange, no matter where they are in Iraq or what Iraqi unit they're going with, they're not seeing this stuff for the first time," he added.

Code compliments 1st Inf. Div.

Code complimented the 1st Inf. Div. effort to re-mission itself to take on the military transition team training. "It's interesting to note ... how quickly they've developed the very very tough and very very realistic training events for these young officers and young noncommissioned officers on this team," he said.

During the 60-day training cycle, the transition team mem-

bers are taught to handle every weapons system they might encounter and the skills needed to operate all communications devices, Cody pointed out.

"Each one is taught combat lifesaver techniques by our medics so that they cannot only administer lifesaving methods to their team members but also to the Iraqi team members that they're going to be with," he said.

The success of that training program was evident in what he witnessed downrange Oct. 3, he said.

"I've been in the Army 34 years and it doesn't take you long to size up a formation. First off, these team members are not privates. They're E-6s, staff sergeants, sergeants first class led by a lieutenant colonel, so the average time in service of each of these team members comes out to about 12 to 15 years of service. Mostly all of them are combat veterans," he said.

Trainers handpicked for mission

The trainers were handpicked and sent to Fort Riley to take their lessons learned during one tour or two tours in Iraq or Afghanistan and impart those lessons to the team members being trained, he

said.

"At the same time, we now have connectivity to Iraq and Afghanistan and we have teams over there that send back ... techniques and procedures so that we can adjust the training" to stay ahead of the enemy, he said.

The decision to centralize transition team training with the 1st Inf. Div. at Fort Riley came about eight months ago, Cody said.

Decision made to centralize training

"We had been pulling together teams from all different posts and stations and once we realized this was going to be an enduring requirement, we felt that we needed to take a division commander, a two-star level commander, and we needed to take a post that had great training areas, a post that we could modify our training very quickly."

"Because we were bringing the Big Red One home and we were building a new brigade here, we thought Fort Riley would be the right place to be able to do this type of training," he explained.

Mike Heronemus can be contacted at mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil or 239-8854.

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Post, Army news briefly

University seeks Soldiers

Qualified individuals with prior military service and members of the National Guard or Reserve who wish to become an officer can apply to the University of Illinois Army ROTC Lateral Entry Program.

The Lateral Entry Program allows eligible students to contract into the Reserve Officer Training Corps as cadets when they are academic juniors, seniors or graduate students with four semesters of coursework remaining before graduation.

For more information, call (877) 863-4768, send e-mail to arotc@uiuc.edu or visit www2.uiuc.edu/unit/armyrotc/ on the Web.

Post to turn on heating

Post heating systems are scheduled to be turned on starting Oct. 10 in the following order:

barracks, bachelor officer quarters, bachelor enlisted quarters, the 8000 area, community buildings, admin buildings, dining facilities and motor pools.

The heating systems in chapels, child development, medical and dental buildings will be maintained as appropriate.

Family housing occupants control their own heating systems as desired.

The authorized temperature for the heating season is 65 to 70 degrees.

For more information, call Steve Fief at 239-3908.

Motorcycle trainer added

Fort Riley now has a full-time qualified Motorcycle Safety Foundation instructor, Chris Maurich. Maurich instructs the Experienced Rider Course and the Basic Rider Course for street bikes.

Starting this month, a Basic Rider Course and an Experienced Rider Course will be conducted weekly. The Basic Rider Course will be conducted from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday at Building 407.

Motorcycles and helmets will be provided, but attendees need to wear long clothing, over-the-ankle shoes and full-fingered gloves.

The Experienced Rider Course will be conducted from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Friday at Building 407.

Attendees must bring their own equipment for the Experienced Rider Course.

For more information, call Maurich on Mondays and Thursdays at 239-8499.

Anyone interested in attending this training should contact their battalion schools non-commissioned officer for enrollment.

ATV, dirt bike training offered

The Installation Safety Office continues to coordinate All Terrain Vehicle Training and Dirt Bike Training. These courses are conducted in Wakefield, Kan.

During warm weather, the training takes place from 8 a.m. to noon; in cooler months the training takes place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All training equipment is provided by the contractor. Attendees are required to wear long sleeve shirt and pants, over-the-ankle shoes and full-fingered gloves.

Soldiers, and family members may attend the training. The Installation Safety Office covers training costs.

Enrollment is coordinated through battalion schools non-commissioned officers.

'Iron Rangers' assume new MiTT mission

By Cpl. Tremeshia D. Ellis
19th PAD

The "Iron Rangers" of the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, held a reorganization ceremony Sept. 27 in preparation for their new mission in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Six 10-man teams were activated during the ceremony as the 1st Bn., 16th Inf., and will assume responsibility for training Military Transition Teams. The 2nd Brigade, 91st Division (Training Support), from Fort Carson, Colo., was initially charged with training MiTTs and future MiTT trainers. The 1st Bn., 16th Inf., will begin training MiTT Soldiers on Fort Riley Nov. 13.

The mission includes training host-nation force advisors selected by the Army, said Maj. Peter Shull, 1st Bn., 16th Inf., operations officer. The focus is to make sure individuals tasked have the necessary skills needed to successfully accomplish the mission.

Over the course of a typical MiTT training course, about 60 days, "Iron Rangers" assigned to the 10-man training teams will teach classes in survival skills and tactics, individual and crew-served weapons and equipment, combat lifesaver skills and cultural awareness, he said.

The Soldiers also will attend advanced drivers training and conduct collective exercises, but the most important lesson the teams learn during their 60-day training cycle may be teamwork, he said.

The biggest, and perhaps most important, thing we will do is

bring the teams together for the first time, Shull said. Here, they will have various opportunities to work jointly and think things through as a team. Teamwork will be key if the MiTTs are to successfully train the host nation forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, he said.

"This training is essential to a successful transition in place, Shull said. "This is a very important mission overall. Our piece is ensuring that the teams are prepared."

"Today is significant ...," said Lt. Col. Frank Zachar, battalion commander. "We have witnessed the 'Iron Rangers' at the pinnacle of a very complex transition for an infantry battalion."

Zachar stressed the similarities of the new training mission to the mission of infantry units deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Their operations are equally vital to the success in the war on terrorism," he said. "They all have significant roles to play in the Global War on Terror, and I assure you (these units at Fort Riley) today have internalized this new and important mission."

Zachar said he is certain each team will successfully turn the corner on a paradigm shaped specifically to support the world-class training of MiTTs at Fort Riley, and, said he agrees.

The unit's current mission is not dissimilar to its combat mission in 2003 and 2004 in Ramadi, Scheinfeld said.

"Before, our mission was to engage and destroy the enemy. Now we are assisting the host nation forces," said Capt. Moses Scheinfeld, new commander of the battalion's Company D.



Post/Heronemus

Some of the post firefighters who are part of A shift gather around a table in the main station's break room Oct. 2 to look at the Northwest Region, Installation Management Agency, plaque awarded to Fort Riley for having the best small fire department in the region. The post also earned runner-up in the all-Army competition.

Award

continued from page 1

er and Campbell Hill Roads in Camp Funston.

That need arose because the new Military Transition Team training is headquartered at Camp Funston.

The temporary Station No. 4 will be replaced by a permanent facility in fiscal year 2011, Cook said.

The Marshall Army Airfield fire station is being upgraded now

and will be replaced with a new facility soon. That project is scheduled to be awarded in January 2007, Cook said.

The post expects to receive a new \$500,000 crash and rescue truck for the airfield about the first of February, he said.

Residential buildup in the Camp Forsyth area will require a new station there, Cook added.

With the expanded service

needed, the firefighting force on post has gone from 35 the first of January to 59 as of Oct. 2.

With the planned expansion at the airfield, Camp Funston and Camp Forsyth, the firefighting staff ultimately will increase to about 70 people, Cook said.

Mike Heronemus can be contacted at mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil or 239-8854.

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Commentary

Friday, October 6, 2006

Fort Riley Post

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Riley Roundtable

This week's question:

What did you like about the open house, and what would you have liked to see included next time?



"A lot of the old-time stuff is pretty neat, seeing how they operated in the military back then."

Spc. Robert Aven
Track commander
Co. A, 70th Engineer Battalion
Hometown: Nixa, Mo.



"I liked the historical stands, the old medicine tent. For me, this is something great to see, to see people in costumes. I'm from Germany, it's my first time."

Anna Denning
Military spouse



"They need an ATM. My daughter (Kaleigh, 3) had fun with the stuff for kids, the horses, jumping on the inflatable."

Jennifer Norrid
Military spouse
Hometown: Alvarado, Texas



"I liked the equipment and weapons displays. I'm an armor guy, so I would have liked to see a tank."

Mike O'Grady
Retired military
Penske Truck Leasing
Hometown: Manhattan, Kan.



"We enjoyed all the kids' activities. There's lots of stuff for our grandchildren and the military displays remind them of our connection to the Army. I would have liked to see more aviation, the Chinook and a Black Hawk."

Pete Oliveras
Retired military
Civilian employee
Hometown: Born in New York City



"I enjoyed a lot of things. It looks good. A lot of people took a lot of time to prepare. I don't think anything is missing except maybe a water buffalo for free water."

Sgt. 1st Class Juan Ramirez
HHHC, Combat Aviation Brigade
Hometown: San Antonio

From the top

Stay safe over the holiday weekend

By Maj Gen. Carter Ham
Commanding General
1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley

This weekend, as Soldiers, families and civilian employees enjoy a richly deserved Columbus Day holiday weekend, I ask that we all make a concerted effort to improve our safety performance.

We have long said, "The Army takes care of its own," and now is the time to recommit ourselves to that ideal.

Across the post, I have directed that each unit take time to focus very specifically on the leading issues that result in deaths, serious injuries or criminal behavior. Not surprisingly, alcohol abuse is at the top of the list.

To state it very plainly, we are allowing our friends and co-workers to place themselves and

us at increased risk because we don't take measures to curtail excessive drinking. Our DUI rate is way too high. A very high percentage of accidents are directly the result of a driver exceeding the legal blood-alcohol limits. Drinking by underage Soldiers is prevalent.

I am firmly convinced that in nearly every incident of alcohol abuse there is a first-line leader who could have prevented the misconduct.

Similarly, our illegal drug use rate is unacceptable. Soldiers serve as the trusted protectors of our society and our way of life. We cannot allow Soldiers - of any rank - to violate that trust through use of illegal drugs.

Again, I believe awareness first, and then intervention by first-line leaders can go a long way toward reducing this type of criminal behavior.

Sadly, we have experienced a



Maj. Gen. Carter Ham

their families and by their friends.

We also know that our leaders, chaplains, social counselors and mental health professionals all stand ready to help any one of us with whatever difficulty we may be experiencing. We know when our friends or our Soldiers are having a tough time. Let's take

number of suicides over the past year. While we will never really know what caused those Soldiers to take their own lives, we do know that the pain of their actions are borne by

the initiative and help them find the counseling and support they need. There is no problem for which suicide is an answer.

First Division Command Sgt. Maj. John Fourham is leading the implementation of "Under the Oak Tree" counseling program to help first-line leaders, in a very personal and non-threatening way, identify and prevent the types of behavior that all too often lead to death or serious injury. I encourage to become familiar with this program and put it into action.

Together, we can make a difference. We can make Fort Riley a safer place for all of us. Most importantly, we can make a difference in the lives of our Soldiers, our families and our civilian employees.

"The Army takes care of its own." Now, it's up to us to do just that. Let's start right now.

Motorcyclists must pay special attention

By Gen. Dan K. McNeill
Commanding General
Forces Command

President Franklin Roosevelt signed legislation in 1937 making Columbus Day a holiday. On Oct. 9, this nation pauses to enjoy an autumn holiday and celebrate America's discovery.

This year, Americans will once again take advantage of the long weekend for recreation, travel and relaxation. As the cooler weather invites motorists and motorcyclists to crowded roadways, the possibility for accidents rises for motorists. For motorcyclists, in particular, the



Gen. Dan McNeill

risks of a fatal accident soar. Each time a fatal accident report crosses my desk, I reflect on two irrefutable truths. First, a member of the

FORSCOM family is no longer with us and the entire team suffers the loss.

Second, nearly all these accidents are preventable when Soldiers and leaders take care of

each other.

In reviewing FORSCOM accident reports, we see common trends as causes for motorcycle accidents:

- Lack of rider experience,
- Lack of training,
- No license, and
- Excessive speed.

Several fatal accidents this year were caused by untrained, unlicensed Soldiers taking test drives on borrowed motorcycles. I want to encourage everyone in FORSCOM to take the actions necessary to prevent future accidents.

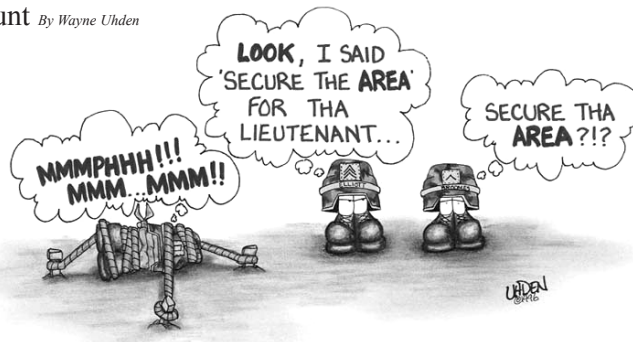
With regard to motorcycle

safety, there is mandatory training that will reduce the chance of accidents.

Use all the equipment required by regulations and recommended by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation. This includes a Department of Transportation approved helmet, eye protection, leather boots or over-the-ankle shoes, high visibility garments (bright colored for day and retro-reflective for night), long sleeves, long pants and full-finger gloves.

I hope every member of FORSCOM enjoys a well-deserved break on Columbus Day. Take the necessary steps to reduce risks - preserving the force is everyone's responsibility.

Grunt By Wayne Uhden



Letters to the editor:

The Post welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not contain any libelous statements or personal accusations. Letters accepted for publication must include the writer's full name and a phone number where he or she can be reached.

Letters may be edited to fit space but never edited to change the writer's viewpoint. Send letters to mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil or fax them to 239-2592.

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610th BSB conducts live-fire convoy exercise

By Sgt. 1st Class Robert Timmons and Maj. Kirk Luedeker
4th IBCT Public Affairs

When the staccato of rifle and machine gun fire subsided and all ammunition, casualty and equipment reports were sent to higher headquarters, the radio buzzed that an enemy mortar position had been identified.

Second Lt. Melissa Brasko, a distribution platoon leader with Company F, 610th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, acting as the convoy commander confirmed the enemy's coordinates and immediately called in a fire mission over the radio net.

Within moments, friendly mortar rounds began peppering the enemy in response, wiping out their position.

The convoy Brasko led was part of a larger 610th BSB undertaking that saw all companies in the battalion enter the convoy live-fire course at Fort Riley's Mortar Hip Shoot range Sept. 19-

22.

"At times it was a bit frustrating, but it was great to be out here mostly with my Soldiers," Brasko said afterward. "It's important that our guys get out on the road and learn what we would be doing in-theater."

The live-fire exercise was the culmination of an intensive, three-week training event the battalion's senior leadership developed in response to the ever-present threat to units and Soldiers serving in the Middle Eastern combat theater. The training incorporated years of lessons learned into a concise, effective leader certification tool to better prepare junior officers and noncommissioned officers for the complex and often dangerous challenges of modern combat operations.

"A lot of us have gotten this training at some point," said Lt. Col. Robert Weaver, 610th BSB commander. "What we wanted to do was to capture those critical lessons learned from Iraq and Afghanistan and give them back to some of our junior leadership so they can then train their Sol-

diers properly."

Weaver originated the training's concept, but he placed his vision in the hands of Capt. Joseph Young, Company A, 610th BSB, commander, to execute. Young was the right person for the job because he planned and developed the battalion's combat logistics patrol and convoy operations procedures earlier this year and was the unit's subject matter expert.

"The primary focus over the three weeks is to prepare units to conduct convoy operations in a combat environment," Young said.

Phase one was to certify the leaders on convoy operations, command and control, and battle drills, he said.

The second phase was a blank fire squad training exercise that required the leaders to react to real-world situations similar to what they will face in-theater and to execute the theories they learned previously against a living, breathing enemy.

The third live-fire phase focused on the requirements and dangers of conducting convoy operations in a hostile environment, incorporating all of the training and techniques, tactics and procedures gleaned by the participants in the first two phases.

For a battalion command team with multiple combat tours in the Middle East and an understanding of war's unforgiving nature, this event was critical in preventing the unit's youthful and combat inexperienced leaders from having to learn these basic lessons overseas.



Soldiers of Co. F, 610th BSB, pour fire onto enemy positions from the lead gun truck as they provide cover during the unit's live-fire exercise Sept. 22.

4th IBCT/Timmons

Like any sports team, the BSB recognized the importance of developing the battle drills that could one day save Soldier lives and becoming proficient in those drills until they become second nature.

"The training not only supports the things they've learned and will need to do as leaders but also teaches them the importance of rehearsals and the attention to detail that is essential for success," Weaver said.

"They aren't going to be experts at the end of it, but the idea is that they'll have a much

better idea of what right looks like and what kinds of questions to ask or things to check on before they run into problems," he said.

Weaver also said that many of the lessons incorporated into the three-week program were the kinds of things that a Soldier might learn over the entire course of a career. However, the Global War on Terror has made it critical for leaders and Soldiers at the lowest level to be masters of their craft, able to process information expeditiously and to make the right decisions.

For the 610th BSB, it's about

carefully refining the experiences and challenges the leaders have already received in their basic schools and courses and tailoring them to what might await them if the unit is deployed.

"We put everyone in a common operating picture," Young said. "The goal is that when something happens real-world, they can react quickly and decisively, execute the appropriate battle drill or response without having to waste time deciding on a course of action and then successfully accomplish the mission. That's what this is all about."

Second Lt. Melissa Brasko, convoy commander from Co. F., 610th BSB, calls in a situation report as her platoon returns fire during a convoy live-fire exercise Sept. 22.
4th IBCT/Timmons



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Army astronaut returns to earth

U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) – It's back to Earth and boots on the ground for Col. Jeffrey N. Williams. The Army astronaut returned from his six-month stay on board the International Space Station Sept. 28.

"Expedition 13 and the years of training and preparations leading up to it was the most challenging, yet rewarding, endeavor of my life," Williams wrote in an e-mail several hours before leaving the station.

"It has been an honor to serve in this way and be part of the Expedition that returned the Station crew to a size of three, successfully completed

the return-to-flight of the Space Shuttle and resumed the assembly of the International Space Station," he wrote.

Williams began his mission March 30 with a launch from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

As part of the overall mission of Expedition 13, Williams and crew participated in the return to assembly of the station.

Among other things, he helped welcome and assist the Space Shuttle Atlantis crew as it brought the P3P4 truss and its solar wings to the station during its STS-115 mission Sept. 9-21.

He also played a major role in the continued station maintenance and scientific experiments.



2nd Bde., 91st Div./Litchfield
Col. Raymond L. Lamb, commander of 2nd Bde., 91st Div. (TS), replaces the 91st Div. patch on the shoulder of Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Buchanan's Army Combat Uniform with the First Army patch at the reflagging ceremony on Fort Riley.

'Dagger Brigade' dons First Army shoulder patch

*By Staff Sgt. Lisa Litchfield
2nd Bde., 91st Div. PAO*

"Today marks a historic occasion. We are at a historic site to be able to do it," said Col. Raymond Lamb, commander of the 2nd Brigade, 91st Division (Training Support), as he began the brigade's reflagging ceremony Sept. 22.

High on the hill overlooking Camp Funston, 2nd Bde., 91st Div. (TS), commanders and sergeants major stood in formation with their color bearers and prepared to end one segment of history and begin another as the brigade became part of First Army's Division West.

During the ceremony, Lamb spoke of the proud history of the brigade but noted that it was now a day for change.

"For the longest time now, this brigade has worn the 91st Div.

patch. We are now changing to the First Army patch. It's significant. We are modularizing; we are transforming just like the rest of the Army," he said.

Although the brigade has changed its patch, its leaders don't expect to change the way they train.

The brigade is known as "Dagger Brigade" and their charge is to "Sharpen the Edge."

Lamb said it is a particularly fitting motto because the brigade's Soldiers train officers and senior noncommissioned officers for transition teams.

"These Soldiers come to us as knives already. What we are doing is resharping that edge that they can go in and make a difference," he said.

The brigade's contribution to the Global War on Terrorism has been exceptional, he continued. "Soldiers that we are sending over to theater right now, small teams

that they are, are having an impact and will have to have an impact in order for us to be successful in that war.

"What you're doing is absolutely important, absolutely critical for the success of our nation and the world in making sure that those two areas of operation, Iraq and Afghanistan, are where they should be to be able to preserve peace," he emphasized.

Lamb said he feels a "sense of excitement" as the brigade transforms.

"We are keeping pace with the rest of the Army, keeping relevant in what we do and how we provide training support to the reserve component forces as they are being called upon more and more to meet our national requirements in fighting the war on terrorism and other operations around the world," he said.

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2nd Bn., 16th Inf., offers leader opportunities

Young Soldiers get chance to excel, welcome challenge of added responsibilities

By 1st Lt. Richard Eichbauer
2nd Bn., 16th Inf.

The 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, "Rangers," may not have the experience typically found in regular units, but established formations don't have the same kind of leadership opportunities typically available to the "Rangers."

Reactivated in January, the "Rangers" find themselves looking for small unit leadership in young troops new to the Army.

Soldiers like Cpl. Douglas Fernandez, in the Army about a year and already a team leader in Company C, 2nd Bn., 16th Inf., is one of the adaptive warriors who has been thrust into a demanding role of responsibility and has excelled.

For Fernandez, the lessons and challenges have come fast and furious since arriving at Fort Riley, but his personal success is reflected in how his battalion has approached the daunting task of building cohesion with a unit full of eager but relatively inexperienced troops.

The battalion leadership doesn't believe complexity will help them reach their goals, but simplicity will.

Focusing on the basics, they often use a football analogy to reinforce the message: blocking and tackling will win games, not fancy plays. They go over the fundamentals of being an infantry Soldier, over and over, until it is second nature.

"Principles," said Maj. David Goetze, battalion operations officer, "we teach the basic principles over and over. From what I've learned in my career, it's what is most important: block and tackle."

Aside from the individual, there is no greater building block in the infantry than a fire team. At its most lethal, a fire team is aggressive, like a pack of wolves, and holding the reins is the team leader.

It's the enlisted man's first encounter with responsibility for one's fellow Soldiers, and an infantry unit's success hinges on how proficient its team leaders are.

Fernandez is one of many who has quickly stepped into a role of responsibility and leadership. As the young Soldiers mature into leaders, 2nd Bn., 16th Inf., is making the necessary strides to mature into a ready fighting force.

Progressing through team and squad live-fires, the unit has just completed platoon level live-fires and now shifts its focus to bigger, more complex challenges, such as the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team field training exercise, company level live-fires and a National Training Center rotation next month.

Fernandez, like every other team leader, has been on the go all year, attending schools, conducting training and learning his craft in a short amount of time. Instead of shirking the strains of such a



2nd Bn., 16th Inf.

Soldiers of 2nd Bn., 16th Inf., take up positions behind a protective berm while training at Fort Riley.

demanding schedule, he's embraced it, soaking up the skills and lessons that could one day save the lives of the men under his charge.

"We got a class on demolitions," he said recently. "It's good training. It's loud; it's real, like combat. It's preparing us for live combat. It was awesome."

As Fernandez talked about the

training, he also expanded on the crash course in leadership he's been a part for the majority of his young career.

"I've been a team leader since I've been here, out of AIT," he said. "I've learned a lot, I've learned a whole great deal. Leadership, responsibility has increased, whole lot more than before, especially being a corpo-

ral; it's a completely different state of mind. I like it, I like the responsibility. The guys I used to hang out with, I have to tell them what to do. They didn't like it at first, but I follow orders from the platoon sergeant to the squad leader to myself."

Fernandez expressed pride in the history of 2nd Bn., 16th Inf., and the high standards all

"Rangers" must live up to.

"Two-16, I love it. You know, there's some good training. Hopefully, we can continue to keep the same standards that have been kept throughout history."

"We're young. We have a lot of privates, including myself from the beginning, but we're coming through. We'll be ready when the time comes."

All Soldiers to receive training on recovery of missing people

By J.D. Leipold
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Beginning in November, the Army's Personnel Recovery Branch will kick off formal personnel recovery training to all units slated for deployment.

The goal is to train all Soldiers in personnel recovery tactics, techniques and procedures within the next 24 to 48 months, said

Col. Timothy Waters, chief, Personnel Recovery Branch.

"Personnel recovery training will be included in all Soldier readiness programs, in unit training, drill schedules for the Reserve and National Guard and in monthly training schedules for the active component so it becomes second nature," he said.

Personnel recovery training will eventually be taught at basic and advanced individual training as well as officer basic and

advanced training.

In the past, personnel recovery was relegated to a specific force, but publication of Field Manual 3-50.1, "Army Personnel Recovery," makes it official doctrine that applies to all Soldiers.

This is a significant change, Waters said, because now a procedural system will be in place that is understood at individual to command levels.

Waters said the first 15 of 60 Reserve and National Guard Sol-

diers are in the final stages of their formal training as instructors in personnel recovery tactics, techniques and procedures.

Following completion, they will be deployed to force deployment platforms and continental U.S. replacement centers to train Soldiers preparing to deploy and in-theater to train Soldiers already

deployed.

Personnel recovery training will include such tasks as reporting, locating, supporting, recovering and returning/reintegrating.

Individual training also will be available in classified and unclassified formats and include survival, evasion, resistance and escape techniques, as well as the

Code of Conduct

Today, on a battlefield where it's hard to distinguish friend from foe, FM 3-50.1 formally acknowledges it's no longer solely special operations or aviation units at risk of capture or detainment, it's all Soldiers, including transportation specialists, military police, civil affairs units and transition teams.

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A charge detonates, scattering chunks of plywood across the field as 70th Eng. Bn. Soldiers practiced preparing and setting off different types of demolitions.



Post/Morelock
Pvt. Jesse Gomez, Co. A, 70th Eng. Bn., looks over the blown-off top of a plywood door Sept. 19 during a field exercise at Fort Riley.



Post/Morelock
Pvt. Jeremiah Proctor and Sgt. Jonathan Wolford, Co. A, 70th Eng. Bn., prepare a water impulse charge Sept. 19 during demolition training.

Engineers continued from page 1

cial in such situations, added Sgt. Stanley Stapleton. "By the time they realize what's going on, the search team is already inside."

The Co. A Soldiers also spent time Sept. 19 prepping flex linear charges, another type of door-breaching charge, and earlier that morning, they detonated a 40-pound cratering charge down-range, sending clouds of dirt flying through the air, leaving behind a massive hole.

While deployed to Afghanistan, the "Kodiak" Soldiers could use the giant holes blown by cratering charges to create obstacles in roadways, explained Co. A Commander Capt. Stephen Heinz as the basketball-sized dirt clouds settled in the distance.

The "Kodiaks" got to do a bit of that during their last deployment to Iraq, from which they returned earlier this year, but would probably get to do more engineer-related tasks while in Afghanistan, he said.

Stapleton, who also was with 70th Eng. Bn. during its last deployment, said the Soldiers did a lot of raids, route security and

"stuff like that. Most of the time in Iraq you're not necessarily doing your job per se. It's more security work," he said.

Stapleton said he expected the deployment to Afghanistan to be a little different, but whatever the mission, the "Kodiaks" would get it done.

"That's our job," he said. "That's what we get paid to do, and we'll go wherever they tell us to go and do our job to the best of our ability."

Stapleton, who's been in the Army for about 12 years and a "Kodiak" for around three, thought the battalion's time in the field was helping to build confidence and camaraderie between the veterans and new Soldiers.

"I think the morale in the unit right now is really high," he said. "The fact that we're actually doing this training is giving the guys more confidence."

One of the newer Soldiers, Pvt. Robert Schauer, who's been with the "Kodiaks" for two months, said the demolitions training was reinforcing what he'd learned during his initial training in the Army and he was having fun doing it.

"I've been having a blast out here," Schauer said. "I love this sort of stuff. I was bred to do this."

Although having a blast is what engineers do, and most Soldiers would probably say that's why they wanted to be an engineer, Schauer said that's not the best part of wearing the branch's castle insignia.

"I look at it like most of the time we're the ones that go in first," he explained. "We're the ones that have to secure the bridges. We're the ones that have to look at 'is this bridge capable of carrying our vehicles over?' In lots of cases we probably end up taking care of the population too, building houses and stuff."

Stapleton said he loves being in the Army, but there is one thing he loves more, his family. His wife is mentally preparing herself for his second deployment in three years, he said. While in Iraq, the couple got to talk quite a bit via the Internet, but Stapleton said this deployment the communication factor may not be at the same level.

Since being promoted to squad leader after returning from Iraq, Stapleton hopes he won't have much time to miss talking with his family while in Afghanistan.

"I'm going to be concentrating on taking care of my guys and bringing them home," he said. "It's going to be a lot more stressful because it's not worrying about myself anymore, it's worrying about my guys. Priority is making sure my guys got the right tools and everything to do their job and to train them right and to take care of them and bring them home."

Being in the field for two weeks helped build the trust needed between the Soldiers to accomplish their mission while deployed. "We're working together and doing a lot of the tasks that we're going to be doing," Stapleton said. "We're basically in a sense the only family we're going to have for a whole year. You know, we have to live with the guys day-in, day-out. Granted, it's like brothers," he added.

Anna Morelock can be contacted at anna.morelock@riley.army.mil or 239-3032.

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Fort Riley Community Life

Friday, October 6, 2006

America's Warfighting Center

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Community news briefly

Activities set for waiting families

A family fun Octoberfest is being planned for waiting families from 1 to 5 p.m. Oct. 21 in the Soldier and Family Support Center, Building 7264, on Custer Hill.

Waiting families are those families whose sponsors are stationed elsewhere, such as for short overseas tours or long-term schools.

Waiting families are invited to join in Octoberfest for music, food, games and contests.

Call 239-9435 to register.

Society sponsors ghost tours

The Historical and Archaeological Society of Fort Riley invites military and civilian residents on and off post to their 11th annual Ghost Tours on Oct. 29th.

One and a half to 2-mile spooky walking tours will start at 4 p.m. at the Custer House. The last tour starts at 7 p.m.

Cost for tickets is \$1 for anyone 13 and older.

Family Readiness Group-sponsored food booths will provide fall foods for purchase. Walking tours will feature storytellers sharing ghostly happenings throughout the historic buildings and sites around Main Post.

Ghostess Patti Walker is still looking for tour guides, story tellers, hospitality crew members and alternate FRG food vendors. All Main Post residents living in historic "haunted quarters" are encouraged to report spooky events happening in their homes.

For more information, visit ghosttour1@yahoo.com on the Web.

Spouses' club plans shindig

Officers' and Civilians' Spouses' Club members and their spouses are invited to mosey on in to "Dodge City: A Night in the Old West" from 6 to 11 p.m. Oct. 13 in the old self-help building (289) on Main Post.

The club is planning a rootin' tootin' evening full of western games, food, drink and fun. Dinner will be available to purchase before the games begin. Tickets for the event can be bought in advance for \$15 or at the door for \$20.

Tickets can be purchased through Kerri Beckert at 784-2587 or Kerrie Arcand at 784-2817.

Ticket purchase gets the bearer a 1st Infantry Division souvenir cup, \$25 in game chips and an endless beverage of your choice, not to mention all the Old West fun you can handle in one night.

Those who wish to join the club should call Chrissy Pribyla at 717-3008 or send e-mail to chrissypribyla@charter.net. OCSC's October Charity of the Month is the Ronald McDonald House. Cash donations will be accepted during the Dodge City event.

Stay In Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley cable Channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Apple Day fun



Two youngsters get to their feet after crawling under a camouflage net obstacle at Fort Riley's open house Sept. 30. The course included several climbing, balancing and maze-like obstacles the youngsters had to negotiate before receiving a congratulatory coin.

Kids race through obstacles

By Anna Morelock
Staff writer

The Ward family started their first Apple Day off at the obstacle course Sept. 30.

Along with streams of other boys and girls, the two Ward boys, Justin and Joshua, low-crawled their way under camouflage netting to begin the course. From under the net, the kids sprinted to a pyramid of hay bales.

While some kids hustled their way up and over, others too small to clear the bales on their own were helped by siblings and parents. Next in line: a hay bale tunnel covered in camo netting and then a short jaunt to a line of staggered bales.

"Go, go, go!" one of the Combat Aviation Brigade Soldiers manning the obstacle yelled in encouragement. Weaving between the bales at warp speed, some kids made it through upright while others skidded to the ground only to jump back to their feet and keep running.

In the middle of the course, a giant red inflatable attraction proved to be

See Obstacle course, Page 12



Fur trapper re-enactors Jim Sylvester (left) and Tim Jeffrey sit at a table outside their tepee-shaped tent early Sept. 30, waiting to answer questions from visitors to Fort Riley's open house and Apple Day event.

Re-enactors bring past to Apple Day festivities

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

While Soldiers stationed at Fort Riley displayed the modern equipment they take to war on one area of Cavalry Parade Field, a group of history re-enactors showed open house visitors the way it used to be — all the way back to the Civil War, fur trading days and America's frontier times.

Friends of the U.S. Cavalry Museum arranged for a wide range of re-enactors to set up "camp" at the annual Apple Day and open house Sept. 30. They included fur trappers, blacksmiths, a candle maker, a rope maker, Civil War Union Army surgeons and Army medical specialists of the mid-1970s.

"I didn't get cold last night," said Jim

Sylvester of Clay Center. "I slept under that bear skin," he said, pointing to the fur lying on the ground outside his tent, "and this morning I put on this deer skin coat." The modern day construction worker said he spends as much free time as he can re-enacting the life of a fur trapper in the 1840s.

He and fellow re-enactor Tim Jeffrey of Junction City often camp together. Last summer they attended a re-enactment rendezvous every weekend. Sylvester said he's made 16 events so far this year.

That Saturday morning they were sitting in the shade of the rain fly over the entrance of their tepee-shaped canvas tent. Sylvester wore a gray fur top hat and sported a long beard and leather

See Re-enactors, Page 13

Erasing blackboards

SMART Boards replace traditional 'head of class'

By Laura Stroda
The Daily Union

Gone are the days of black chalk boards in the front of classrooms. Teachers now use white dry erase boards to illustrate lessons.

In the near future, even those boards will be eliminated as schools move toward using SMART Boards for teachers and students — at least that's the goal of a few teachers at Custer Hill Elementary School at Fort Riley.

Students at Custer Hill are among the few in Geary County Unified School District 475 who get to use SMART Boards in the classroom and on their own time.

They know how lucky they are and truly enjoy using the board, whether it's to play educational games on the Internet or using special markers to do long division.

"It's just really, really fun," said Essence Gill, a student in

Jan McNeese's fifth-grade class. Gill said she enjoys using the board even more than a computer.

A SMART Board doesn't look much different than a large dry erase board, but it certainly functions differently. A laptop computer is projected onto the board, which then essentially becomes a touch-screen computer.

Teachers can tap anywhere on the board just like they would use a mouse to click on a computer.

There are also special markers that don't actually write on the board but function much like a personal data assistant stylus. There's even an "eraser" to fix mistakes.

Students seem to grasp concepts better when presented electronically and the way lessons are taught has changed dramatically, McNeese said.

"We used to just do worksheet

See SMART Board Page 16

Commissary celebrates 15 years

By Peter D. Skirbunt
DeCA historian

FORT LEE, Va. — Fifteen years ago, to improve efficiency and increase taxpayer savings, Congress and the Department of Defense created the Defense Commissary Agency by consolidating the military services' retail grocery operations into one organization.

"With sales of over \$5 billion — all 'at cost' to our customers — this agency continues to save taxpayer dollars while delivering a vital military benefit important to military family quality of life and the recruiting and retention of military personnel," said DeCA Director Patrick Nixon.

"The word 'DeCA' has become synonymous within DoD for leading change and achieving results. We're proud to have accomplished so much in our short lifetime as an agency," he said.

While Oct. 1 marks DeCA's 15th anniversary, the commissary benefit itself is almost 140 years old. In 1866, Congress authorized the Army to sell food items at cost to officers and enlisted men starting July 1, 1867. These sales were



authorized at every Army post with a subsistence warehouse. Sales areas were simply a table or counter in the warehouse, and the official stock list was only 82 items, but this was the start of the modern commissary benefit.

Since the early years of the 20th century, commissaries have

been similar to civilian grocery stores and supermarkets in terms of layout and the number of items offered for sale.

In the past 15 years, store facilities have been further upgraded, more people have become eligible to enjoy the benefit and customer savings have increased. In 1991, commissaries provided average customer savings of 20 percent when compared with local grocery chains; today, average savings are more than 30 percent.

Thanks to customer surcharge dollars, the agency has strived to provide military families with a shopping experience comparable to civilian sector stores. DeCA has opened 86 new stores, remodeled or renovated 64 existing ones and upgraded and modernized more than 100 more. In 2007, DeCA will open its "store of the future" — a prototype upon which facets of other stores will be modeled — at Naval Base San Diego.

The Congress-mandated surcharge has remained at 5 percent since 1983. The number of items stocked by commissaries has increased from about 13,000 in the largest stores in 1991 to

See Commissary, Page 15





Obstacle course continued from page 11

more of an obstacle for some but not as difficult for others.

The inflatable and the tunnels were the hardest things about the course, Justin said. Not because hay bales tunnels covered with netting were particularly hard, he said, but because he was just too big for the obstacle.

A Soldier standing guard at the next obstacle in line had to remind the exuberant kids to slow down as they stepped up to balance on planks set across hay bales. From there the kids dodged "mines" littered in the grass and headed to a trail of tires.

At the tires, some literally jumped right in while others dodged between the tires. Another hay bale tunnel and a plank walk and the obstacle-goers reached out to receive a coin, their prize for finishing.

"The funnest thing was the mines," Justin said, referring to the spattering of blue discs in the grass. All in all, he concluded, it was better than the last obstacle course he tried, which just consisted of inflatable obstacles.

"It's something nice for the little ones," Justin's dad, John, said of the course. "It's really not (Justin's) style."

Joshua, however, the younger of the boys, had fun making his way through the course. "They had fun. They like running," John said.

"He likes getting the prizes," Elizabeth, the boys' mother, said, referring to her youngest son.

Anna Morelock can be contacted at anna.morelock@riley.army.mil or 239-3032.



Post/Morelock
A obstacle-goer weaves through a staggered hay bale obstacle at Apple Day Sept. 30.



A boy helps his brother down a pyramid of hay bales. A few of the younger participants at the obstacle course needed a little extra help maneuvering the course but seemed to enjoy it all the same.
Post/Morelock

AAFES steps up for National Physical Therapy Month

AAFES

DALLAS – Since 1926, October has been designated National Physical Therapy Month. This year, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service will join the Army Physical Therapy Clinics around the world to offer promotions on branded running shoes from Sept. 29 to Nov. 2.

"AAFES will make it more affordable than ever for active duty and reserve members to find the correct running shoe for their specific needs," said AAFES Buyer Nancy Evans. "Partnering with the Army Physical Therapy Clinics allows AAFES to assist the military community in achieving the National Physical Therapy

Month's goal of 'Moving You to Better Health.'"

Each week during October, AAFES will offer different brands of running shoes at reduced prices. Vendor representatives will be available at select AAFES locations to assist shoppers in finding the right.

In addition to promoting proper shoe selection during

National Physical Therapy Month, AAFES offers a year-round athletic shoe program called "Fit the Foot." Created in conjunction with the Department of the Army, "Fit the Foot" is an organized effort to decrease injuries through educational tools that assist shoppers in finding the proper fit when choosing technical running shoes.

KARSH + HAGAN
3 x 10"
Black Only
3x10.FIRSTSTRATIONALM.9/28.1k

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE
3 x 10"
Black Only
3x10.American Family10/6 mc



Re-enactors

continued from page 11

clothes. Jeffrey wore a headband, cloth pants and shirt and smiled through a waxed mustachio curved up at the ends.

A variety of pelts and trapper paraphernalia could be seen within easy reach of the two mountain men.

Nearby, Dave Zahm pumped air into his coal fire, making it glow red hot. He took a piece of iron from the fire, placed the white hot tip on a large anvil and began hitting it with a large hammer, shaping the iron into some useful object, perhaps a wall hook or plant hanger.

Zahm hasn't strayed too far from his modern day livelihood as a welder in his pursuit of leisurely weekends playing a frontier era blacksmith. He's been re-enacting for the past 30 years, he said.

His wife, Liz, and daughter, Shelly, accompanied him to the post's open house. Liz showed visitors how to twist single strands of rope into a stronger three-strand piece of rope.

Shelly dipped wicks into a caldron of hot wax, then hung them up to cool, forming candles one layer at a time until she had them big enough to burn for a long time.

Not too far away, 1st Lt. Edwin F. Talcott, an assistant surgeon in the 8th Kansas Volunteer Infantry Brigade, explained to curious visitors about the gleaming – and sharp – surgical tools he and other

Union Army surgeons used in the Civil War.

In modern life, he is William "Rex" Patty of Topeka, Kan.

Joe Schlageck, another member of the 8th Kansas Volunteers, stood next to Patty, explaining more about what Army doctors did in the Civil War. He amazed visitors with information that revealed that more than two-thirds of all Civil War Soldiers who died in the war died from sickness or disease instead of battle wounds.

One sheet of paper with Civil War facts showed that Union Army surgeons treated 1.7 million cases of diarrhea or dysentery during the war and treated fewer than 237,000 Soldiers for gun shot wounds.

Gun shot wounds accounted for almost 34,000 Union Soldier deaths, but diarrhea and dysentery killed more than 44,500 Soldiers.

Dr. Herschel Stroud is a dentist most days, but Sept. 30 he was Maj. Albert G. Huffman, brigade surgeon for the Frontier Brigade encampment at open house. He got interested in Civil War re-enacting because of the stories his grandmother told him when he was a boy.

"My grandparents came to Kansas in a covered wagon from St. Elmo, Ill.," he explained. "She would tell me stories about the Civil War."

As with all true re-enactors, Stroud does extensive research

from official records so he can portray his character as close to real life as possible. Fort Riley's museum has some valuable historical documents about early Army medicine, he said, as does the National Civil War Museum of Medicine and the National Archives.

John Bernard Dowling Irwin, after whom Irwin Army Community Hospital at Fort Riley is named, was an Army doctor, but he earned another distinction as the first recipient of the Medal of Honor for leading a group of Soldiers in Arizona to rescue other Soldiers under siege by Geronimo and his band of Apaches, Stroud said.

Not far from the surgeons' tent but a long leap in time, open house visitors could glimpse more military nostalgia in the form of a mid-1970s era Army medical unit's sick call tent. The display included two Jeep ambulances, one provided by Richard Goldberg of McPherson, Kan.

Goldberg belongs to the Military Vehicle Preservation Society, an organization dedicated to preserving military vehicles no longer used.

Goldberg spent 20 years on active duty. He was assigned to a unit that used the converted Jeep Gladiators as ambulances in Korea from 1974 to 1976. "When I got out, I bought one," he said about his first step into the re-enacting hobby.

Bringing the ambulances up to the standards when they were used and keeping them running today isn't too difficult, Goldberg said. "You can buy stock parts from dealers or go on the Internet," he said.

The aid station set up by Goldberg and a couple of other re-enactors included a "dunce-and-a-half" truck, a "GP (general purpose) small," green canvas tent, canvas cots and cases of medical



Post/Heronemus
Jaeden Green, 4, looks through a sight on the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon displayed by Sgt. Eladio Gonzalez of C Troop, 1st Sqdn., 4th Cavalry, during open house.

supplies. The display depicted modern times when compared to the other re-enactor encampments, but it represented Army field medicine 30 years earlier than the modern medical tent set up not even 100 yards away by Fort Riley Soldiers.

What visitors found interesting about American and military life in days gone by turned to amazement of the military technology in use today – in medicine and warfighting – as they continued their stroll through exhibits on Cavalry Parade Field.

Mike Heronemus can be contacted at mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil or 239-8854.



Post/Heronemus
One of the new Apache helicopter gunships stationed at Fort Riley drew large crowds of interested viewers during the whole day Sept. 30.



Post/Heronemus
Shelly Zahm lifts candles she has just dipped – again – into a metal pot of melted wax. She said it doesn't take long to make lots of candles, but it seemed like a slow process as she dipped each set of two candles and hung them to dry a while before dipping them again.



Post/Heronemus
Dave Zahm turns a blower crank to heat the coals he uses to heat iron. He has been a blacksmith re-enactor for almost 30 years. He was accompanied by his wife, Liz, who makes rope for visitors, and his daughter, Shelly, who makes candles.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 1 x 3" Black Only 1x3 1st Baptist Church
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COTTONWOOD THEATERS 1 x 3" Black Only 1x3 Oct. TP 10/1.6131.1k

FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST 2 x 2" Black Only 2x2 1st South Bp Ch OCT TF
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SCREEN MACHINE 2 x 2" Black Only 2x2 Screen Machine Oct TF

KPA 2 x 2" Black Only Quarter horse sale

STORAGE CITY 2 x 2" Black Only 2x2 Storage City Oct Spec

COLLEGE HEIGHTS BAPTIST 2 x 2" Black Only 2x2 College Hts Oct TF

FOUR SEASONS RVACRES 2 x 3" Black Only 2x3.fourseasons.9/15.5066.1k
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U.S. ARMY RESERVES- ARMED FORC
6 x 21.25"
Black Only
hw michael olivero





Community news briefly

Bible groups meet on post

Anyone interested in finding or starting a Bible study group in their neighborhood can contact Lt. Col. Eric and Cindy Wesley at 717-2330, or Capt. William and Sarah Arnett at (785) 539-4708.

Some study groups already meeting on Main Post at 7:30 p.m. Mondays and 7 p.m. Wednesdays, on Custer Hill at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays, and in Ogden and Manhattan at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

A female officers study group meets at 11:45 a.m. Tuesdays in the basement conference room in Building 212.

Call the Wesleys or Arnetts for specific locations where groups meet.

Screenings offered for kids

The Exceptional Family Member Program and the New Parent Support Program are offering developmental screenings for all military families who have children from birth to kindergarten age.

The screenings will include vision, hearing and an Ages and Stages Assessment. There also will be a different educational theme offered each month.

Screenings will be conducted from 1 to 4 p.m. Oct. 8, Nov. 15 and Dec. 13 at the Soldier and Family Support Center, Building 7264, on Custer Hill.

For more information and to RSVP, call 239-9435 and ask for EFMP or NPSP.

Enlisted spouses plan 'hat' night

The Fort Riley Enlisted Spouses' Club invites one and all to join its members for a night of food, fun and crazy hats at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 25 at Rally Point on post.

This year's "Crazy Hat Night" puts a spin on the usual things by adding a 1980's style theme. Participants are asked to dress in outrageous 1980's style clothing in addition to wearing a crazy hat.

The cost this year will be \$12 for ESC and Officers' and Civilians' Spouses' Club members. All others will be charged \$15.

RSVPs and payments are due by Oct. 13. RSVP and sign up for child care by calling Edith Nolan at 784-6123.

HOMESTEAD AUTO
1 x 1.5"
Black Only
1X1.5 Homestead Wrecker Oct. TF

STATE FARM INSURANCE
1 x 6"
Black Only
1x6 Oct., TF, 10/6, 6126, 1k

Commissary continued from page 11

17,000 in 2006.

National Guard and Reserve personnel, always key components of the military, were granted full-time commissary benefits in 2004.

In most commissaries, ID checks have been moved from the front door to the registers for the convenience of customers. Other conveniences such as self-checkouts, sushi bars, hot foods, deli-bakeries, credit and debit card acceptance, gift certificates and much more have been added to modern commissaries.

"We're actively involved in our communities as well," Nixon said. "The Scholarships for Military Children funded by manufacturers and brokers that sell groceries in commissaries has awarded more than \$4 million and nearly 3,000 scholarships to military children."

When natural disasters strike military installations, as happened last year when hurricanes Rita and Katrina hit Gulf Coast installations hard, commissaries provide crucial aid to military and civilian families in need of food and sup-

plies. Even when commissaries were severely damaged, temporary stores brought some sense of normality to affected customers.

DeCa

The Defense Commissary Agency operates a worldwide chain of commissaries providing groceries to military personnel, retirees and their families in a safe and secure shopping environment.

Authorized patrons purchase items at cost plus a 5-percent surcharge, which covers the costs of building new commissaries and modernizing existing ones.

Shoppers save an average of 30 percent or more on their purchases compared to commercial prices — savings worth about \$2,700 annually for a family of four.

benefit serves our people in uniform wherever they are stationed. When forces deploy, the families left behind depend upon their local community services, including the commissaries, to see them through tough, lonely times.

"With 15 years of experience as a defense agency and 140 years of heritage behind us, the Defense Commissary Agency is ready to continue providing this highly valued military benefit for years to come," Nixon said.

Paper sponsors essay contest

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Fort Riley's newspaper staff is sponsoring an essay contest for students in fifth through eighth grades in post schools.

The contest is being conducted in conjunction with National Military Family Week Nov. 13-17.

Writers should compose an essay of no more than 300 words expressing their opinions about the value of the military family.

Submissions can be handwritten, typed or created on a computer. They must be submitted to the Fort Riley Public Affairs Office, Building 405 on Main Post, before close of business Nov. 3.

Submissions can be mailed to Editor of the Post, Public Affairs Office, 405 Pershing, Fort Riley, KS 66442; delivered in person or sent via e-mail to mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil. Mailed entries must arrive in the PAO by Nov. 3.

Each entry must contain the writer's full name, school, grade and home phone number.

The first- and second-place winners in each class will have their photos taken and printed with their essays in issues of the Post, beginning with eighth-graders Nov. 9 and continuing with seventh-graders Nov. 17, sixth-graders Nov. 22 and fifth-graders Dec. 1.

Photos will most likely be taken at the student's school after coordination with his or her parents.

KPA
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Black Only
omaho home

MANHATTAN SHOE REPAIR
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Black Only
2x2 Man Shoe Oct. TF

KPA
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Black Only
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KPA
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Black Only
postal positions



Post/Morelock

Deputy Garrison Commander Linda Hoeffner symbolically places the stole, a liturgical symbol historically associated with the clergy, on the shoulders of Fort Riley's new installation chaplain, Chap. (Col.) Thomas Day. Outgoing Chap. (Col.) Kenneth Sampson (far left) will take up a new position at Fort Belvoir, Va.

New chaplain takes over post

By Anna Morelock
Staff writer

The light blue pick up with flames circling the bottom won't be seen driving around Fort Riley any longer.

The truck, which many recognize as the vehicle that ferried Chap. (Col.) Kenneth Sampson, the installation chaplain, to ceremonies and events for the past 26 months will be heading with him to his new assignment as the command chaplain for the Army Materiel Command at Fort Belvoir, Va.

"His prayerful leadership has guided this community through 26 months of uncertain change,

joy and sadness," said Deputy Garrison Commander Linda Hoeffner, speaking about Sampson's time at Fort Riley. "Wherever we were, we could count on you, Chap. Sampson, to be there with us, at worship services, memorial services, ceremonies, preparation for deployments ... regardless of the day or hour."

Hoeffner symbolically lifted the stole, a liturgical symbol historically associated with the clergy, from Sampson's shoulders and placed it on the shoulders of Fort Riley's new installation chaplain, Chap. (Col.) Thomas Day, Sept. 26 at the Main Post chapel.

"When a couple that owns horses gets assigned to Fort Riley, we can be confident that God does

indeed have a hand in the assignment process," Hoeffner said as she introduced the new chaplain to those gathered for the ceremony.

"It's a privilege to take over and become the installation chaplain, but also it's a challenge to follow someone like Ken Sampson who's been one I've looked up to in the army chaplaincy, who is not only technically proficient, but a man of God," Day said during his short speech. Day comes to Fort Riley from his position as the Korean Regional Installation Management Agency Chaplain.

Anna Morelock can be contacted at anna.morelock@riley.army.mil or 239-3032.

LIVING WORD CHURCH - MANHATTAN
3 x 2.5"
Black Only
2x2.5 Living Word Oct.

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE
3 x 3"
Black Only
3x3 RonMcDon House CPC

ADVANCED DENTAL ARTS
3 x 3.5"
Black Only
2x3.5 Adv Dental Arts Oct.



Community news briefly

Staffs plan pumpkin trip

The Exceptional Family Member Program and New Parent Support Program staffs invite families to join them in a trip to the Pumpkin Patch from 10 a.m. to noon Oct. 28 at the Soldier and Family Support Center.

The event will promote socialization and family collaboration in support of one another. The event is free but participants are asked to RSVP by calling 239-9435 by Oct. 16.

SFSC offers funds class

The Soldier and Family Support Center will offer a Funds Custodian Class from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 18 to assist all Family Readiness Group fund custodians.

A new regulation governs FRGs and many of the changes affect the funds. The class will cover major changes and give fund custodians instructions on setting up income statements and monthly ledgers.

Pre-registration is required to attend.

Free child care will be available but parents must bring their child's shot record.

Call 239-9435 to register.

Chapel plans Hallelujah Night

The Morris Hill Chapel Gospel Service congregation plans to sponsor Hallelujah Night from 5 to 8 p.m. Oct. 31.

The post-wide fall festival will take place at Morris Hill Chapel as an alternative to Halloween and trick or treating. The festival will provide a safe environment for kids to have fun with family and friends. Free food, games, inflatables

and lots of fun for the whole family is planned.

For more information, call Morris Hill Chapel at 239-4814.

Support group to meet monthly

The Exceptional Family Member Program Support Group will meet at the Soldier and Family Support Center, Building 7264, Oct. 10, Nov. 14 and Dec. 12.

For more information, contact the EFMP office at 239-9435.

JCHS singers to host workshop

The JC Singers at Junction City High School will sponsor a "Sing and Dance" workshop from 8 a.m. to noon Oct. 14 for students in grades 4-8.

Workshop participants will receive a hat they will wear in a performance at the JCHS fall choral concert Oct. 17.

The \$10 enrollment fee covers costs of music and materials.

For more information, call the JCHS vocal music aide at 717-4263 or Mary Louise Stahl, JCHS vocal music instructor, at 717-4262.

Gymnastics classes available

Gymnastics classes are offered Monday through Wednesday evenings at the Teen Center for \$35 monthly. The exhibition team meets on Thursdays for \$45 monthly.

For more information, call Central Enrollment Registry at 239-4847.

SMART Boards

continued from page 11

after worksheet, flash cards and drills. Worksheets are a thing of the past," she said. "This generation was brought up using computers every day. Some of them know more about them than I do."

Being able to use the board and play games while learning at the same time also provides an incentive for students to focus.

"The kids that struggle the most are the kids that need motivating the most ... and most of them have to stay (for extra help) anyway," McNeese said. "If you keep them in, they see it as a punishment. But if you offer them technology, if you offer them the SMART Board or a computer, then it's not a punishment."

Custer Hill's Title I teacher, Shelley Buchanan, heard about the boards mounted in Wichita classrooms and got permission from Principal Sierra Jackson to make the trip and observe teachers using the SMART Boards. After visiting with staff and stu-



Thomas Nagle and Harlan Hinkle look on as Holly Townsend (far left) and Essence Gill demonstrate the capabilities of a SMART board for learning and playing educational games.

DU/Stroda

dents, she was sold.

Her first proposal to the district's technology department was denied, but Buchanan looked for

other ways to fund the pricey boards that can run upwards of \$5,000 with the necessary software.

She applied for a grant through Interactive Whiteboard Technology to receive a discounted price on the SMART Board. Then she wrote another mini-grant through the district. This time it was approved.

Now, Buchanan is working to find funding to have a board mounted in each classroom. The benefits are seemingly endless, she said.

"There is just so much you can do with these," Buchanan said. "Like Ms. McNeese, her students do a lot of note-taking. Now, if a student is gone, she can just save and print the notes she writes, or she can e-mail them."

This story first appeared in the Sept. 19 issue of *The Daily Union* in Junction City, Kan. It is reprinted with permission by Editor and General Manager Tom Thorne.

US CELLULAR
4 x 16"
Black Only
full color use-06-0a241

WILDCAT PET RESORT
2 x 3"
Black Only
2x3Wildcatpetgenad

MILITARY OUTLET
2 x 3.5"
Black Only
2x3.5Military Out Oct TF

VALENTINOS OF MANHATTAN
2 x 4"
Black Only
2x4 Valentinos fmpg 10/6





Fort Riley Sports & Recreation

Friday, October 6, 2006

America's Warfighting Center

Page 17

Sports news in brief

IACH to hold shoe clinic

Irwin Army Community Hospital's Physical Therapy clinic will conduct a running shoe clinic at the PX from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Oct. 14. Staff from the clinic will be available to assess foot type and running style in order to make recommendations about appropriate shoe choices. All military beneficiaries are welcome to come by.

ITR offers Chiefs tickets

The Fort Riley Information, Ticketing and Registration Office has tickets for several Kansas City Chiefs home football games.

Tickets for the game and coach bus transportation to each game are \$70 and \$85. Tickets are available for the game against the San Diego Chargers Oct. 22 and the Seattle Seahawks Oct. 29.

ITR is located across the parking lot from the Main PX. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

For more information, call 239-5614.

Outdoor rec changes hours

The Fort Riley Outdoor Recreation Center changed its hours of operation for fall and winter. It will be closed Sunday and Monday and open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

Field house activities listed

Oct. 9 - No fitness classes
Oct. 10 - Noon, Hip Hop Aerobics 6 p.m., Spinning
Oct. 11 - 9 a.m., Turbo Kick

Oct. 12 - 6:30 a.m., Spinning; 9 a.m., Spinning; noon, Hip Hop Aerobics

Oct. 13 - 9 a.m., Turbo Kick; 12:15 p.m., Target Tone; 6 p.m., Cardio Kickboxing
For more information, call 239-2813.

Pool classes, activities listed

Oct. 9 - No fitness classes
Oct. 10 - 5-6 p.m., Water Aerobics

Oct. 11 - 5:45-6:30 p.m., Abs/Buns & Thighs

Oct. 12 - 5-6 p.m., Water Aerobics

For more information, call 239-4854.

Custer Hill Lanes events listed

Custer Hill lanes is open daily for lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Oct. 7 - 4 to 6 p.m., Family Time Extreme Bowling

Oct. 8 - 11:30 a.m., Sunday Football in the Strike Zone Pub

Oct. 9 - 5 to 7 p.m., Monday Night Football in the Strike Zone Pub

Oct. 11 - 5 to 7 p.m., Wednesday Wing Night in the bar

Oct. 13 - 5 to 8 p.m., Family Night with Bowling and Buffet

Custer Hill Bowling Center, Building 7485, offers open bowling 5 to 11 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays, 5 to 10 p.m. Fridays and 5 to 11 p.m. Saturdays.

For more information about Bowling Center activities, call 239-4366.

Nemechek falls short in Kansas

Army News Service

KANSAS CITY, Kansas - "We were a splash of fuel away from having a good day," said Joe Nemechek after finishing 27th in the Oct. 1 Nextel Cup race.

Nemechek was referring to his U.S. Army Chevrolet running out of gas with three laps remaining in the 267-lap, 400-mile race at Kansas Speedway.

The final green flag run came down to a fuel-mileage contest, leaving Army crew chief Ryan Pemberton with a difficult decision to pit or not to pit. He decided against pitting for fuel because he felt there was more to gain than to lose in track position on the 1.5-mile oval.

"Had we pitted for fuel we might have picked up a couple of positions and finished 24th or 25th," Pemberton said. "But had we made it, we were looking at a top-12 finish. We didn't have much to lose so we went for it."

Tony Stewart and Casey Mears, who finished first and second respectively, both ran out of fuel on the final lap but managed to coast to the checkered flag without getting passed.

"This was the kind of ending to a race where you're forced to roll

the dice," Nemechek said. "Sometimes you make it, and as you saw with our Army team today, sometimes you don't. It was the right call under the circumstances."

Judging by the number of bad breaks that befell Nemechek during the race, it would have probably been more surprising had he not run out of fuel.

For starters, on the first pit stop (Lap 10), Nemechek was turned

sideways by the No. 10 car (Scott Riggs) as he was entering his pit stall. That sent the 01 Army car to the back.

Nemechek came back strong as he battled his way through the field, thanks to aggressive driving, quick pit stops and sound race strategy.

But while running in 15th place on Lap 196, Nemechek's momen-

See Nemechek, Page 18

Game on

596th Signal wins Eastern game 22-20

By Mike Heronemus

Editor

A two-point conversion made the difference between winning and losing Oct. 3, and the 596th Signal Company ended on top of Battery B, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, 22-20 in the Eastern League game.

Both teams mounted effective offensive and defensive plays throughout the game, which also was riddled by penalties, some of which created touchdowns situations or called them back.

For example, Signal started the game on offense and used quarterback scampers and a pass to the left side that an Artillery defender knocked out of the receiver's hands. That resulted in a completed pass ruling that put Signal on their opponents' 22-yard line with a third down and only two yards to go for its second first down in the first series of plays.

On the next play, Signal's quarterback passed to a receiver sprinting down the right sideline. He caught the ball and was almost immediately knocked off his feet at the 3-yard line when an Artillery runner stepped in front of him and they collided.

The referee ruled impudence of the runner and Signal lined up for first down close to the Artillery's goal line. The Signal quarterback scampers right as though he was going to run in for the touchdown, sundering an Artillery defender to pull away from the receiver he was guarding and then flipped a short lob pass over the defender's arms. The ball nestled into the receiver's arms and Signal put the first points in the scorebook.

Trying for 2 extra points from the 10-yard line, the Signal offense showed some impatience and moved before the ball was snapped. That moved them 5 yards farther from the goal line and their next extra points attempt failed.

Trailing 6-0, the Artillery took over on their own 20 and quickly went to the air, finding an open receiver who carried the ball to Signal's 25-yard line on the first play of the series. The Artillery quarterback ran right on the next play, drawing several defenders to him before launching a long pass that found its mark behind Signal defenders and the Artillery receiver crossed the goal line for 6 points.

See Flag football, Page 19



PostHeronemus

Two 596th Signal Co. receivers (in blue) and two Btry. B, 4th Bn., 1st FA, defenders grab for a pass in first quarter play at Sturgis Stadium Oct. 3



PostHeronemus

While their daddies play football, the kids play in the dirt along the sideline.

Tribute to Troops raises \$500+, many items

By Debbie Bengston

USD 475

Tribute to the Troops night Sept. 15 at Al Simpler Stadium at Junction City High School rallied the Junction City community to collect hundreds of items and donate more than \$500 for the area's wounded Soldiers and their families.

The event also promoted public awareness for two local, non-profit charities benefiting wounded Soldiers and their families. "Our community is responsive,

caring and extremely generous," said Ron Walker, superintendent of Geary County Schools. "It was a great night all around."

Cash donations for rally towels netted the Fort Riley AUSA Wounded Soldiers Fund \$511.78. Two hundred fifty rally towels were given out at the event.

The second local charity, the Wounded Soldiers Outreach and Support, received hundreds of donated items for injured Soldiers and their families. Items such as micro-head pillows, shower curtains, bed linens, personal hygiene items, DVDs, VHS videos, phone

cards and snacks were received by Tribute to the Troops volunteers at the JCHS Blue Jay football game.

"The Wounded Soldiers Outreach and Support is very grateful for all the hard work of the students and teachers of USD 475," said Joe Belardo, the organization's vice president. "Sometimes we miss the fact that the most trivial things like a bar of soap is so well-appreciated."

The Sophomore Class Committee and the eighth grade Team Nine at Junction City Middle School, led by history teacher

Tom Wesoloski, collected items for the WSOS in the weeks leading up to the Tribute to the Troops event.

"We discussed the importance of supporting our Soldiers as they continue to fight for our freedom in the war on terror," Wesoloski said. "Many of our students have ties to the military, and the collection was overwhelming. In all, Team Nine students collected 288 items for the project."

The Sophomore Class Committee/Class of 2009 will be col-

See Tribute, Page 20

Characters abound in a tailgating parking lot, and it's never hard to find them. Take, for instance, a wanna-be cowboy, who climbs atop a giant, plastic bull and pretends to ride while waving his hat madly. The bull never moves, but the cowboy always takes a spill.

Or the guy we'll call "Carl," who doesn't use his real name for fear his new bride will find out he isn't out of town on business.

If tailgating had an MVP race, lifelong Tiger fan Charles Whatley would be a contender.

See Tailgating, Page 18





Post, Army news briefly

Aikido classes offered

Aikido instruction will be offered by Daniel Hayes from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays in Long Fitness Center on Custer Hill.

All Soldiers and Department of Defense family members 18 and older can participate.

For more information, call Sgt. William Kinsman at 239-5716 or staff members at King Field House or send e-mail to william.kinsman@riley.army.mil.

Outdoor rec rents shooting aid

The Outdoor Recreation Center, Building 9011 on Rifle Range Road, offers a Laser Shot Shooting Simulation System to help hunters improve their shooting. The system can be used for a rental fee of \$5 per person per hour or a group rate of \$15 per half hour or \$25 per hour.

Outdoor Rec is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

For more information, call 239-2363.

After 6 years, hunter back in game

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

A hunting hiatus of six years ended Oct. 1 for Master Sgt. Mark Dombrowski of the 97th Military Police Battalion. That day — his first day hunting in six years — he bagged a “5-by-5” elk on Fort Riley.

The buck had five scorable points on each antler and three other nonscorable points close to the elk's forehead.

It was Dombrowski's first elk hunt, too, although he's a hunter from way back. He used a 30.06 rifle to bring down the elk.

“I have been hunting since I was 10 years old,” he said. “My father bought me a BB gun to keep the wildlife out of the garden, and I was hooked.”

His passion for hunting has been locked in his gun cabinet because of the Global War on Terrorism. In the past six years he has deployed to Afghanistan once and to Iraq twice, leaving him no time to hunt, Dombrowski explained.

Bagging the elk, however, was “an awesome experience,” he said, recalling how ecstatic he felt after getting his kill.

The 34-year-old military policeman arrived at Fort Riley in June this year. Before long he joined the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

“Hunting elk (on Fort Riley) is an opportunity of a lifetime,” he said, “and anything that helps with the conservation of our wildlife is worth supporting.”

The Dombrowskis live in post



Post/Name

Master Sgt. Mark Dombrowski, 97th MP Bn., poses with the elk he shot Oct. 1 on Fort Riley.

housing. He plans to have the elk's rack mounted for display at home.

“My wife doesn't know where I'll put it,” he said, “but she said it won't go in bedroom.” The Dom-

browskis have tasted elk meat before and he said they like it. His elk is being packaged by a butcher in Riley, Kan., and “we bought a new freezer yesterday (Oct. 2),” he said.

Nemechek

continued from page 17

tum stalled again. This time it was for speeding on pit road and the penalty sent him to the back of the field.

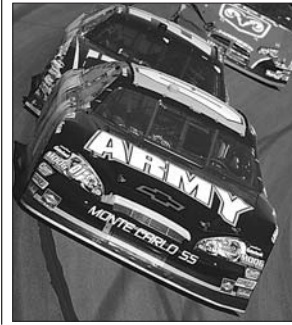
“What bothers me most about the (speeding) call is when NASCAR informed us about the penalty,” Pemberton said. “Had NASCAR told us when the infraction happened, Joe would have had time to come in to top off the fuel tank and we wouldn't have had the fuel issue at the end. We ran a couple of caution laps before NASCAR told us about the speeding penalty. And when they did tell us, the green flag was ready to drop to restart the race.”

With all that happened to the 01 team, Nemechek left the race disappointed, but not dejected

with the final result.

“We were close,” Nemechek said. “We had handling issues early, but the Army Chevy got better during the second half of the race. Had a few breaks gone our way, it could have been a pretty good day. We're still looking for that clean race that will get us headed in the right direction. Again, this is the Soldiers' car and we will never quit.”

The next race for the Army team is Oct. 8 at Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway. Nemechek will also drive in the Craftsman Truck race on Oct. 7 in Talladega. He will pilot the No. 46 U.S. Army Silverado, owned and operated by Morgan-Dollar Motorsports.



Joe Nemechek finished 27th in the Oct. 2 Nextel Cup race at Kansas City's Kansas Speedway. Kansas Speedway/Eller

Tailgating

continued from page 17

Charles' business card says he's an “Auburn fan extraordinaire.” Charles won't tell me his age, and I won't tell him I dated his granddaughter.

Ptailgating experience is the camaraderie between every bite of a barbecue sandwich or sip of a favorite, frosty, adult beverage.

Football and grilled food have a tendency to pull people together. They can come from many different backgrounds, but on game days, they all seem to be a little closer to one another.

John said, over the years, he's

come to know the people around him in the parking lot. Everyone has a designated spot if they get there early enough, so you know where to find them. They learn about other people's lives, catch up with their friends and share some laughs in the process — all in a day and age when there doesn't seem to be enough time to do any of the above.

“This is my time,” offered a devoted tailgater named Larry, before wiping cheese sauce from his face, unbuckling his belt and

settling into his Auburn Mossy Oak folding chair. “I'm not thinking about work, the bills I have sitting on my kitchen table or my mother-in-law's bad attitude. I'm here with my friends ... and my Tigers.”

The rest of society could learn something by studying the spirit of the average tailgater. He's naturally friendly, even to those cheering for the enemy, and willing to share whatever he has to help their fellow fan. Need barbecue sauce?

Run out of charcoal? Can any of you guys finish off the rest of this (insert sizzling, artery-clogging food here)?

Speaking of that artery-clogging food, the preparation of the day's meal and general satisfaction with the final product are worthy of discussion and admiration.

On opening day, our group had the entire spread front and center: barbecue on the grill, fried chicken, potato salad, baked beans, cold drinks on ice, etc.

There are no rules when it comes to eating tailgating grub. The selection of food and the way it's cooked, however, can earn some serious style points.

And surprisingly, the colder it gets, the better the tailgating is.

“You just don't need as much ice,” Harris said.

As thousands of football fans crossed the street and walked by in a rush some 15 minutes before kickoff, I couldn't help but feel they were missing out on something big by not taking the time

to tailgate. Couldn't they see the brotherhood? Couldn't they sense the congeniality? For crying out loud, couldn't they smell the food?

After enjoying all of these things before the game, I can't imagine there would be any way a true tailgater could put a halt to this lifestyle. “I guess if my heart stopped beating,” Harris said, finishing his sentence with a smile.

OK, there's one. Now pass the barbecue.

HOUSE FILL AD

PRAIRIE HAWK CYCLE & LEATHER,
1 x 1.5"
Black Only
1x1.5 Prairie Hawk Oct TF

BODY FIRST
1 x 2"
Black Only
1X2 Body First Massage

TYME OUT
1 x 2"
Black Only
1x2.hunzspecial.9/15.4772.lk

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1 x 2.5"
Black Only
1x2.5 1st Pers Oct TF

COUNTRY HILLS ENERGY
2 x 2"
Black Only
2x2.countryhills.9/27.lk

DAILY UNION
2 x 8"
Black Only
2x8.carterchristians.9/29.lk

4X4 LAND, INC.
3 x 2"
Black Only
3x2 4x4 Land Oct TF

FURNITURE WAREHOUSE
3 x 8"
Black Only
3x8 1Color Red Furniture 10/6



Flag football

continued from page 17

The try for 2 extra points failed, however, and the game remained tied at 6 all.

The Artillery defense stiffened in the final few plays of the first quarter, keeping Signal three yards short of mid-field and a first down until the Signal quarterback uncorked a long pass to the right side of the field and found a receiver who carried the pigskin to the Artillery 20-yard line and a first down.

Swapping ends of the field to start the second quarter, a personal foul called on the Artillery moved the ball to the Artillery 10-yard line and again put Signal in a favorable field position. After two incomplete passes, the Signal quarterback scrambled away from defenders in his backfield until he spotted a receiver open and connected with him to move the ball to the 5.

Scrambling in the backfield again on the next play, the Signal quarterback again suckered an Artillery defender from in front of the receiver he was guarding and another lob pass gave Signal a 12-6 lead over the red-jerseyed Artillerymen.

The extra points run and pass combination from the 10-yard line would have been the first successful extra points attempt, but the Signal line moved and they had to try again from the Artillery 20-yard line.

This time, Signal crossed the goal line untouched for 2 extra points and a 14-6 lead over the Artillery.

The Artillery quarterback tucked the ball in on the first play from his own 20 and rushed ahead to the 32-yard line before a defender could grab his flag. A



Post/Heronemus

Artillery defenders converge on the 596th Signal Co. ball carrier and a teammate caught in the runner's path Oct. 3. Signal won the Eastern League game, 22-20.

Signal penalty advanced the Artillery another 5 yards and quick runs on the next two plays put the Artillery across midfield and all the way to Signal's 20-yard line for a first down.

Signal tightened its pass defense and blocked the next pass, but the Artillery quarterback ran a short distance and then passed for another Artillery touchdown on the next play to narrow the score to 14-12.

Sticking with a proven offensive strategy, the Artillery quarter-

back again lured a pass defender away from a Signal receiver and lobbed a short pass into the end zone for 2 extra points and a tied game.

Signal controlled the ball for the rest of the first half but couldn't score, so the Artillery got the first offensive series in the third quarter and advanced to the end zone in two plays to lead 20-14. The 2-point conversion attempt failed and Signal took over on their 20.

Three plays later, Signal added

6 points to its score and then passed into the end zone on the extra points attempt to take the lead 22-20.

Signal had a touchdown called back in the final quarter because of an illegal offensive block and an Artillery pass defender intercepted a long Signal bomb to end that drive.

The Signal defense tightened on the last plays of the game and kept the Artillery from penetrating far enough to score any more points.

Eastern League Standings

(as of Oct. 3)

Team	W	L
HHC, 1-41st Inf.	1	1
Co. B, 4-1st FA	2	1
596th Signal	2	0
HHC, 2-16th Inf.	0	1
HHB, 2-32nd FA	0	1
Btry A, 2-32nd FA	0	1
Btry B, 2-32nd FA	0	2

Southern League Standings

(as of Oct. 3)

Team	W	L
Co. A, 101st FSB	1	1
Co. B, 101st FSB	0	1
Co. E, 101st FSB	0	0
HSC, 601st ASB	1	0
Co. A, 601st ASB	1	0
Co. B, 601st ASB	1	1
1-360th Inf.	0	1

Western League Standings

(as of Oct. 3)

Team	W	L
Co. A, 610th BSB	3	1
Co. B, 610th BSB	2	1
Co. C, 610th BSB	1	3
Co. D, 610th BSB	1	2
Co. E, 610th BSB	2	1
Co. F, 610th BSB	2	2
Co. G, 610th BSB	1	2

Northern League Standings

(as of Oct. 3)

Team	W	L
HHC, 1st Inf. Div.	0	0
977th MP Co.	0	0
MEDDAC	0	0
HHC, 3rd Bde.	0	0
24th Trans. Co.	0	0
172nd Chem. Co.	0	0

D&L SALES/SUZUKI
2 x 3"
Black Only
2x3 Sales ATV

COLORTYME
2 x 3"
Black Only
2x3.colortyme.9/29.5905.1k

THURSTON LAW FIRM, CHTD.
2 x 3"
Black Only
2x3 Thurston Law Oct. TF

WORLD VENTURES
2 x 3"
Black Only
2x3.travelday.10/1.6239.1k

DOE'S EAT PLACE
2 x 4"
Black Only
2x4 Doe's 9/15

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD-MANHATTA
2 x 4"
Black Only
2x4 1st Assen/God Oct. TF

CANDLEWOOD HEALTH MART PHARMAC
2 x 2"
Black Only
2x2 Candlewood Hlth Ph Oct. TF

CRUMS
2 x 4"
Black Only
2x4 Crum's Thank You

US ARMY /ARMYMIL1
2 x 6"
Black Only
702492 ps 9/11

2 x 8"
Black Only
2x8East:sid&ct:10/29WisCranbery





Brown takes point lead

Army News Service

MOHNTON, Pa. — U.S. Army Pro Stock Motorcycle pilot, Antron Brown, regained the point lead Oct. 1 with a semifinal round advancement in the Toyo Tires Nationals at Maple Grove Raceway.

For Brown, who hails from New Jersey, it's the third time this year that he's sat atop the leader board.

Brown's Pro Stock Motorcycle teammate, Angelle Sampey, lost in the semifinals, while U.S. Army Top Fuel driver, Tony "The Sarge" Schumacher, dropped a tough race to J.R. Todd in the second round of eliminations.

With point leader Andrew Hines exiting in the first round of eliminations, Brown took advantage and marched two rounds further to reclaim first place in the standings.

Brown is now 27 points ahead of Hines with two races left in the Pro Stock Motorcycle season.

"I guess you could say that I'm being greedy by saying it would've been better if we went on to win the race," he offered. "But, to get back on top of the points is real exciting for the entire U.S. Army team. Now, we need to make sure we stay there once and for all."

Sampey, with her semifinal

round berth on race day plus a national elapsed time record pass on Sept. 29, closed her gap on Brown and Hines.

The three-time world champion, who holds third place in the order, is now 64 points behind her teammate.

"Like Antron, I felt like I had a Suzuki very capable of winning this race," Sampey said. "I really could have used the maximum number of points possible today. But, now we'll just have to focus on our next race in Las Vegas at the end of the month."

Schumacher, who started from the pole for the 11th time this year, moved through the opening round with a first-round bye before losing the match-up with Todd on a "hole shot."

Todd, who went on to capture the event, actually posted a slower pass than Schumacher (4.502 seconds to 4.490 seconds), but he was quicker at the starting line by .018 of a second.

"Obviously, I needed to be better at the tree," Schumacher said. "Listen, it was a good race — we both ran well. We'll just have to pick up the pieces and move forward."

While Schumacher stays on the road next weekend, Brown and Sampey will wait to rejoin the tour at the ACDelco Las Vegas Nationals Oct. 26-29.

Classified Runover
4 x 21.25"
Black Only

Tribute

continued from page 17

lecting items for wounded Soldiers and their families at Blue Jay football home games Sept. 29 and Oct. 13.

"We are so excited that the Sophomore Class Committee is continuing this effort," said Allison Poppe, a Tribute to the Troops

coordinator. "It shows you just how much everyone in this community cares for our Soldiers and their families."

ARMED FORCES BANK
1 x 13"
Black Only
1x13ArmedForcesBank10/60OctT
F

HERPICH BRETT
1 x 4"
Black Only
1x4 Gun & Knife Show

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL ABILENE
1 x 4"
Black Only
1x4.CR.10/1.4833.1k

LAKE SIDE MARINE
1 x 4"
Black Only
1x4 Lakeside Oct TF





CLASSIFIED ADS





Travel & Fun in Kansas

Page 22

America's Warfighting Center

Friday, October 6, 2006

Leisure time ideas

At the movies:

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$3.50 for adults and \$1.75 for children 11 and under. Children under the age of 5 are free except during children's matinees or expected sell-outs.

Oct. 6 — Material Girls, PG, 99 min.

Oct. 7 — World Trade Center, PG-13, 129 min.

Oct. 8 — Crossover, PG-13, 95 min.

Oct. 12 — World Trade Center, PG-13, 129 min.

Oct. 13 — The Wicker Man, PG-13, 97 min.

For more information, call 239-9574.

Junction City:

What: Mystical Arts of Tibet, mandala sand painting and stage performance

When: Nov. 2-5

Where: To be announced. **Admission:** Entry to the mandala is free; tickets to the performance are \$20, \$1 of each ticket sale will go to the AUSA's Wounded Soldier Fund. For tickets call the Arts Council at (785) 762-2581 or stop by 107 W. Seventh St.

Web site: www.mysticalart-sof Tibet.org

Manhattan:

What: "Tartuffe." Comedy stage production by Moliere

When: Oct. 11-15 and 18-22

Where: Nichols Theatre, Kansas State University

Tickets: \$8 to \$15

Phone: (785) 532-6428

Web site: www.ksu.edu/sctd

Paxico:

What: "Tartuffe." Annual event includes 11 a.m. parade with tractors, floats and decorated children's bikes; a 2 p.m. Mutt Race with prizes; bands and food vendors all day; root beer and sarsaparilla at a boomtown bar; cowboy reenactment featuring the Bart Plasteron Gang; quilt show; games and activities, including an egg race, three-legged sack race and more; vendors offering antiques, crafts, home décor and more.

When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 14

Where: Downtown

Admission: Free

Phone: (785) 636-8400

Web site: www.paxicomercant.com

Atchison:

What: Haunted Trolley Tour. Narrated trolley tour featuring ghostly tales about Atchison's historic homes. Atchison's distinction as the "most haunted town in Kansas" is revealed on this hour-long narrated trolley tour through historic neighborhoods to hear first-hand eerie tales of the ghosts who inhabit the city's historic homes.

When: Through Oct. 31

Where: 200 S. 10th St.

Phone: (913) 367-2427 or (800) 234-1854

Wamego:

What: "Wizard of Oz." A musical stage production.

When: Oct. 12-15, 19-22 and 26-29

Where: Columbian Theatre, 521 Lincoln Ave.

Phone: (800) 456-2029

Web site: www.columbiantheatre.com

Giant pumpkins

Bison Visitors Center offers array of Halloween activities

By Linda Hubalek

The Great Pumpkin Commonwealth announces that the Official Kansas Great Pumpkin Weigh-off will be held Oct. 7 at the Smoky Hill Bison Visitors Center south of Assaria, Kan. A

spokeswoman said the center has received notice of two 500-pound pumpkins and one 700-pound pumpkin headed for the weigh-in.

This event, held during the farm's month-long Maze and Pumpkin Patch, is now an accredited site for this international organization.

The GPC, as it is known, is the grower organized governing body for over 30 giant pumpkin weigh-off sites in the world.

Last year's world record pumpkin was grown by Larry Checkon of Altoona, Pa., at 1,469 pounds. The pumpkin weigh-in is just one of many activities and group fundraisers planned for the Smoky Hill Bison's Maze and Pumpkin Patch that opened Sept. 30. Pumpkins will be delivered between 10 a.m. and noon, with

weighing beginning at noon.

Oct. 7 and 8 is "Salute to the Military" weekend at the maze. Active and retired military personnel get in free by showing their military identification. Admission for each weekend day is \$6 per person, with children three and under free.

If you go:

Smoky Hill Bison's Maze and Pumpkin Patch is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays through Oct. 31.

A weekday individual pass costs \$5 per person. A weekend individual pass costs \$6 per person. The discount rate for 12 or more is \$5 per person. Those who buy tickets ahead of time or online at www.BisonFarm.com save \$1 per ticket.

The Visitors Center is 18 miles south of the Salina interchange of Interstate 70 and Interstate 135, and 9 miles north of Lindsborg. When coming from the north on I-135, get off at Exit 82 (Assaria), go to Old Hwy. 81 and turn south. If coming from the south, take Exit 78 (Lindsborg/Bridgeport), turn onto Old Hwy. 81, turn north and follow the signs to the center.

vide food.

The maze theme this year is for the global flyer plane that flew around the world by Steve Fossett, who took off from Salina

and returned to the same spot after his non-stop flight. It is open all month during the day, on Fridays for the Moonlight Maze, and Saturdays for the Haunted Maze.

Visitors will maneuver through the maze designed by The MAIZE, the world's largest maze company, using an age appropriate themed "passport" that includes questions the company has made to match the maze.

During October weekends, the public can also enjoy rides on the handicap-accessible Prairie Tram to see the buffalo herd. The Gov-erland Covered Wagon, pulled by a draft horse team, will give guests a tour around the farm. Last year's new attraction, the Giant Trebuchet, will again launch large pumpkins up to 700 feet during hourly demonstrations.

New activities

Volunteers for the "Hearts of America" project will be collecting items for overseas Soldiers to use and to hand out to children while on their missions.

Special chuck wagon vender "Buffalo Ray's" from Kansas City will pro-

vide food. The maze theme this year is for the global flyer plane that flew around the world by Steve Fossett, who took off from Salina

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A pumpkin display at the Bison Center. Courtesy photo



Covered wagon rides are included in the many offerings during the Maze and Pumpkin Patch celebration at the Smoky Hill Bison Visitor's Center.

K-State theater presents Urinetown

By Sara Shellenberger

Kansas State University

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Kansas State University Theater and the university's department of music will present 10 performances of the satirical musical "Urinetown" Oct. 11-22 in Nichols Theatre.

A hilarious tale of greed, corruption, love and revolution, "Urinetown" takes place in a Gotham-like city with a terrible water shortage. Water is so scarce the government has banned private toilets and forced citizens to pay to use public amenities.

A hero emerges to plan a revolution. "Urinetown" is appropriate for audiences of all ages.

Performance dates are 8 p.m.

Oct. 11-14 and Oct. 18-21 and 2 p.m.

Oct. 15 and Oct. 22.

Nichols Theatre is in Nichols Hall near the K-State Student Union parking lot.

Tickets are \$10 for students and children, \$13 for military members and

\$15 for the general public.

To order tickets, call (785) 532-6428, visit the McCain box office from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays or order online at <http://www.k-state.edu/mccain> and click on KSU Theater. Tickets also are available from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. weekdays at the K-State Student Union Little Theatre box office.

For group discounts call Marci Maullar at (785) 532-6878.

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